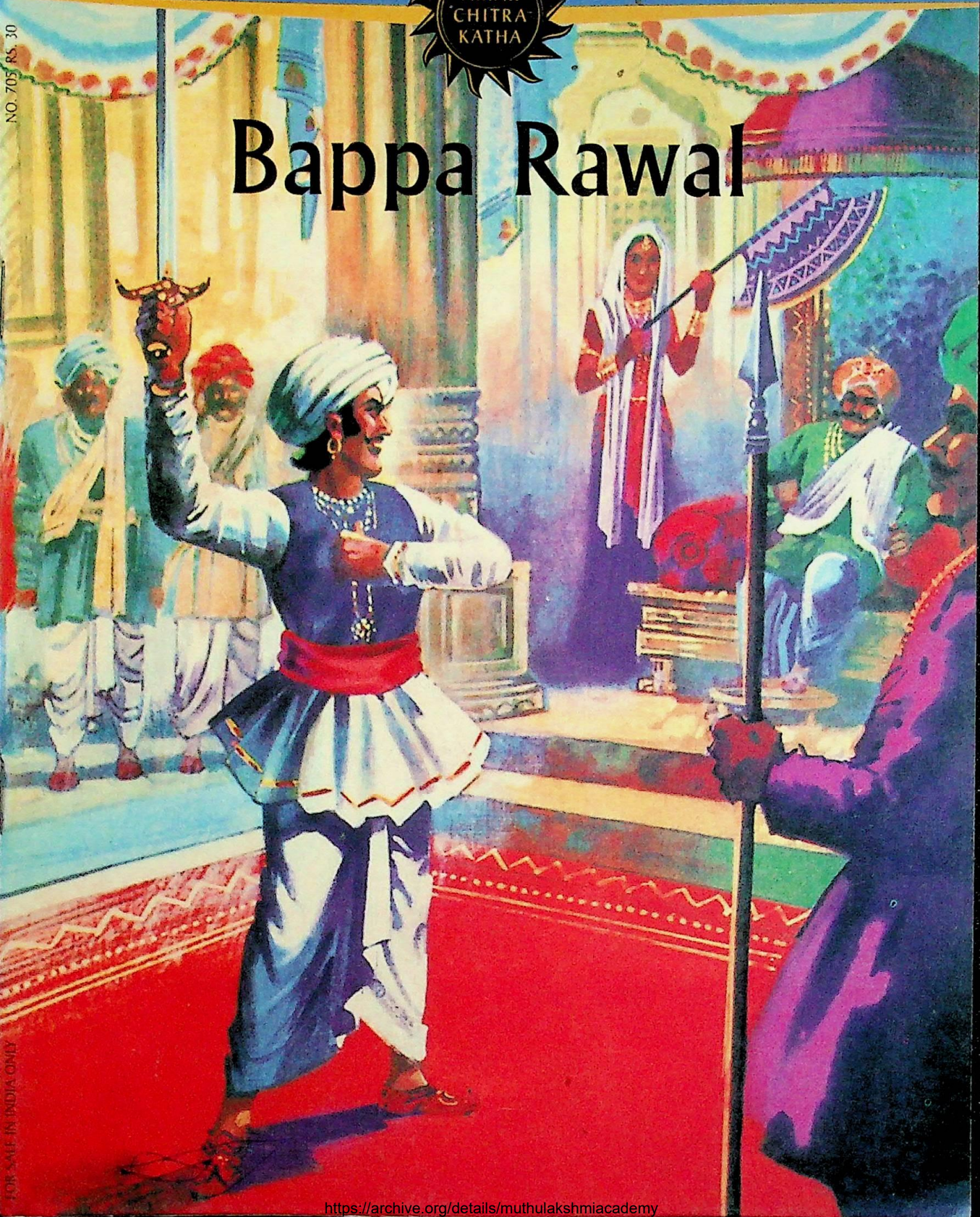




# Bappa Rawal







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# BAPPA RAWAL



IN THE 8TH CENTURY, WHILE FOREIGN ENEMIES MOUNTED INVASION AFTER INVASION ON THE WESTERN PARTS OF INDIA, THE INDIAN RULERS CONTINUED TO WASTE AWAY THEIR STRENGTH IN FIGHTING EACH OTHER FOR SELFISH ENDS.



NAGADITYA, THE RULER OF IDUR, WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN BHIL SUBJECTS. THE QUEEN MOTHER, WITH HER ONLY SON, THE THREE-YEAR-OLD SHAILADHISH AND SOME LOYAL FOLLOWERS, WENT INTO HIDING. A FEW YEARS LATER -



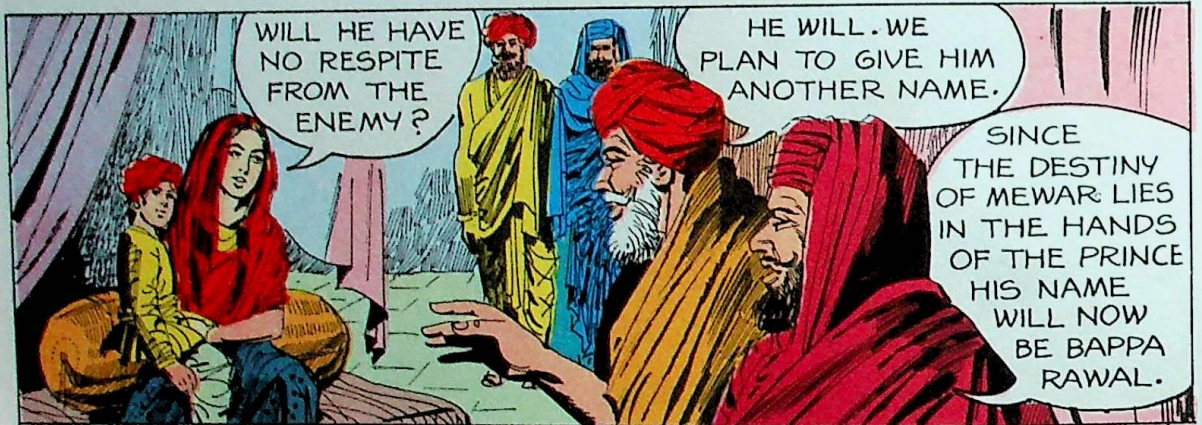
RAJ GURU,  
I AM TIRED  
OF THIS  
HARD LIFE.

YOU WILL HAVE  
TO BEAR IT FOR  
THE SAKE OF THE  
PRINCE.

WILL HE HAVE  
NO RESPITE  
FROM THE  
ENEMY?

HE WILL. WE  
PLAN TO GIVE HIM  
ANOTHER NAME.

SINCE  
THE DESTINY  
OF MEWAR LIES  
IN THE HANDS  
OF THE PRINCE  
HIS NAME  
WILL NOW  
BE BAPPA  
RAWAL.

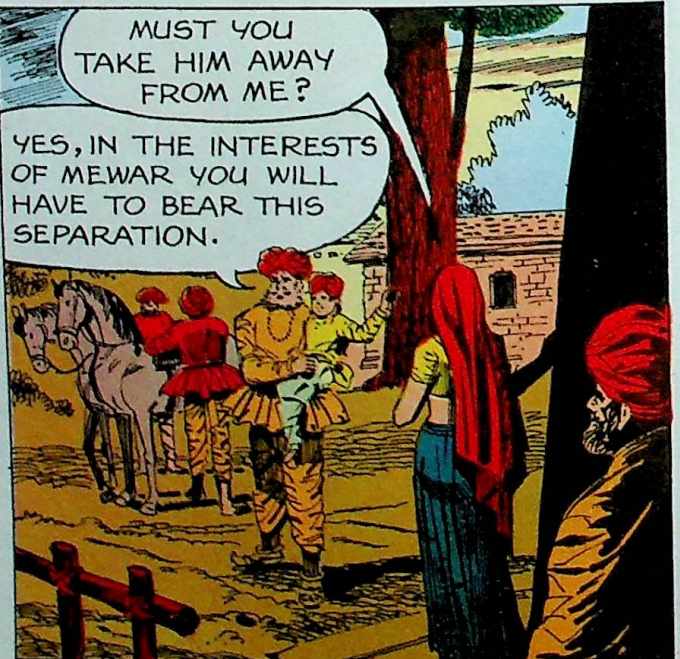
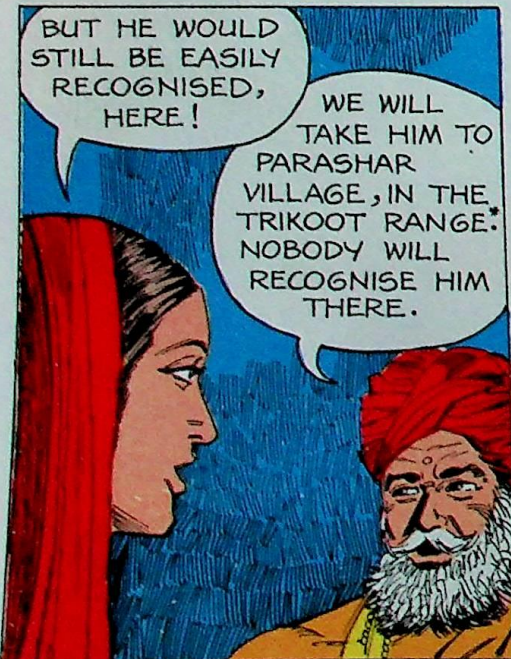


BUT HE WOULD  
STILL BE EASILY  
RECOGNISED,  
HERE!

WE WILL  
TAKE HIM TO  
PARASHAR  
VILLAGE, IN THE  
TRIKOOT RANGE.\*  
NOBODY WILL  
RECOGNISE HIM  
THERE.

MUST YOU  
TAKE HIM AWAY  
FROM ME?

YES, IN THE INTERESTS  
OF MEWAR YOU WILL  
HAVE TO BEAR THIS  
SEPARATION.



\* TODAY KNOWN AS THE ABU HILLS.



ONE AFTERNOON, THE  
RAJGURU ARRIVED WITH  
BAPPA, AT A BRAHMAN'S  
HOUSE IN NAGDA -

BAPPA IS HARD-  
WORKING AND  
HONEST.

HE  
WILL  
SERVE  
YOU  
WELL.

LATER- BAPPA, EVERY  
MORNING YOU  
WILL HAVE TO TAKE  
MY CATTLE TO  
THE HILLS TO  
GRAZE.

IT WILL BE  
DONE, SIR.

THAT EVENING-

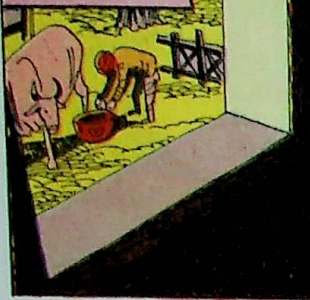
BAPPA, IT'S  
TIME TO GIVE  
THE CATTLE  
THEIR FEED.

I'M COMING.

THEY HAVE GONE!  
I AM ALL ALONE.

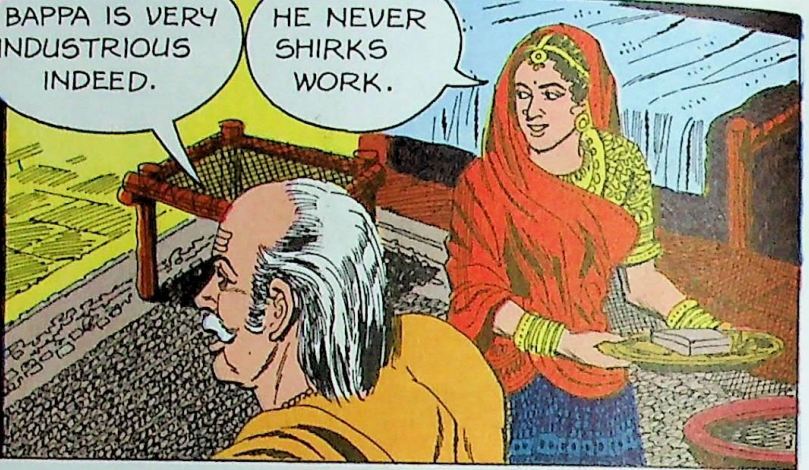


BAPPA TOILED HARD AND SOON WON PRAISE FROM THE MASTER AND HIS WIFE.



BAPPA IS VERY INDUSTRIOUS INDEED.

HE NEVER SHIRKS WORK.

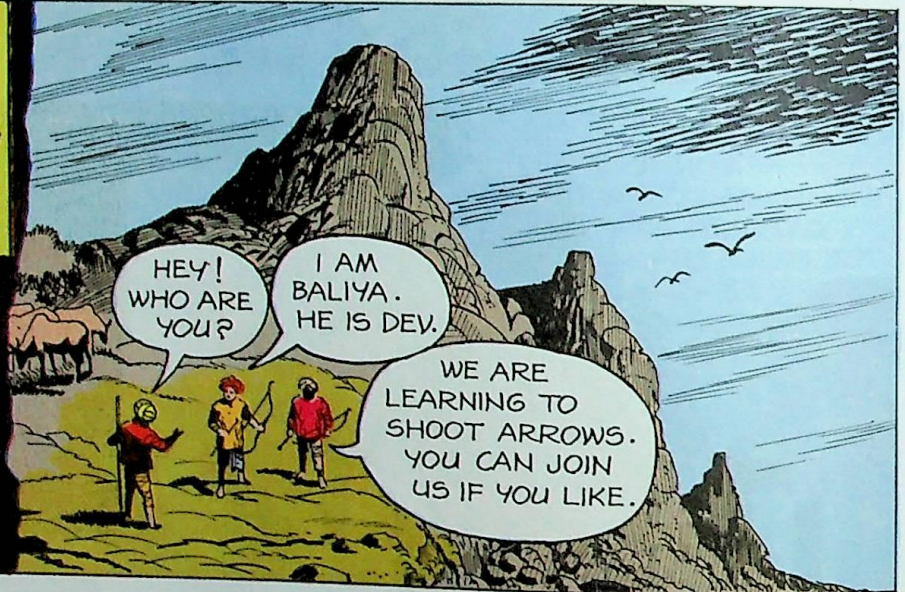


EVERY MORNING BAPPA USED TO TAKE THE CATTLE TO THE NEARBY HILLS AND RETURN WITH THEM IN THE EVENING. ONE DAY -

HEY!  
WHO ARE  
YOU?

I AM  
BALIYA.  
HE IS DEV.

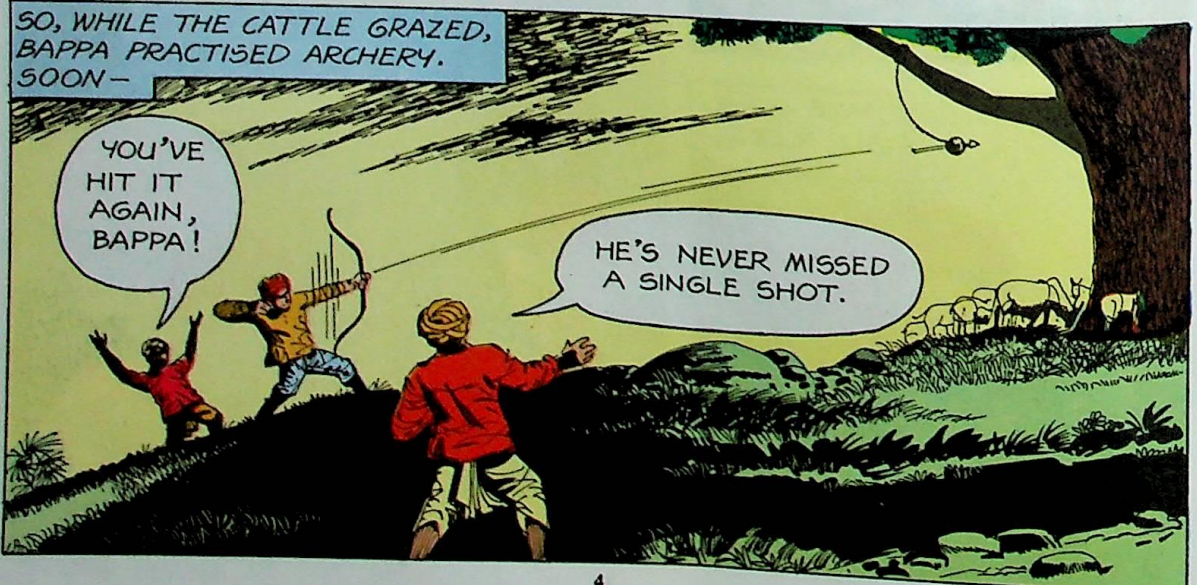
WE ARE  
LEARNING TO  
SHOOT ARROWS.  
YOU CAN JOIN  
US IF YOU LIKE.



SO, WHILE THE CATTLE GRAZED, BAPPA PRACTISED ARCHERY. SOON -

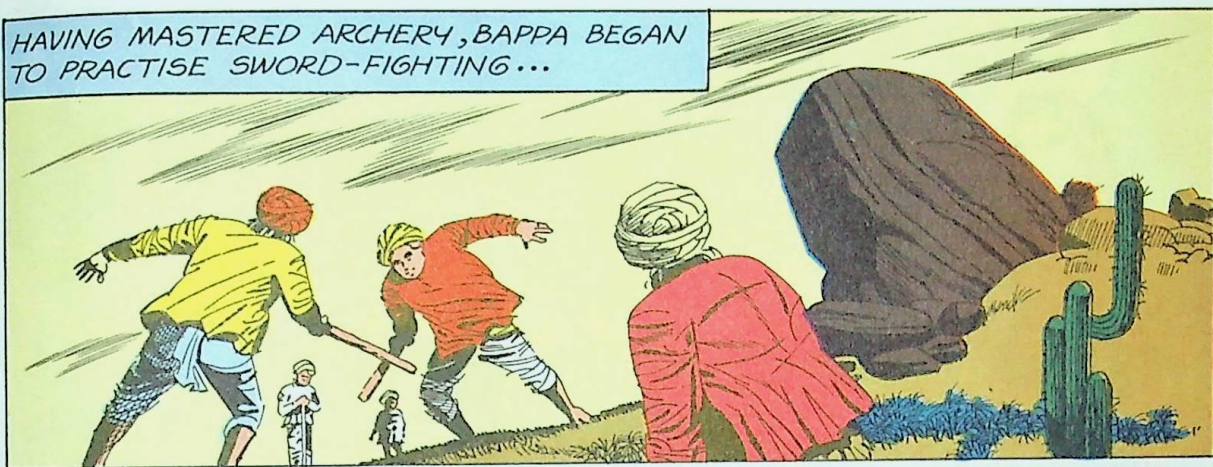
YOU'VE  
HIT IT  
AGAIN,  
BAPPA!

HE'S NEVER MISSED  
A SINGLE SHOT.





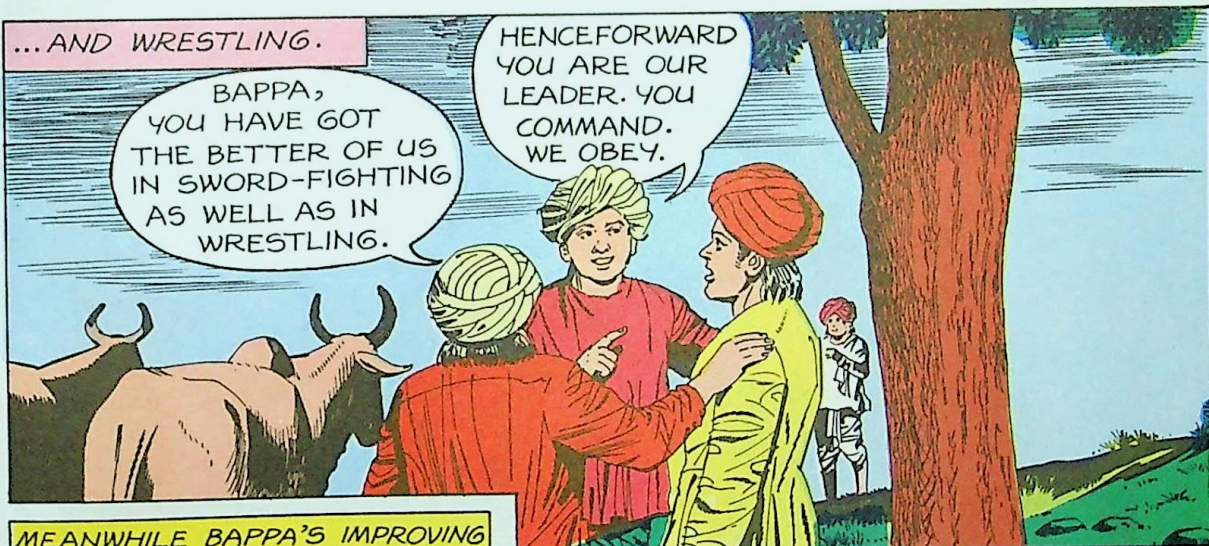
HAVING MASTERED ARCHERY, BAPPA BEGAN TO PRACTISE SWORD-FIGHTING...



...AND WRESTLING.

BAPPA,  
YOU HAVE GOT  
THE BETTER OF US  
IN SWORD-FIGHTING  
AS WELL AS IN  
WRESTLING.

HENCEFORWARD  
YOU ARE OUR  
LEADER. YOU  
COMMAND.  
WE OBEY.



MEANWHILE BAPPA'S IMPROVING PHYSIQUE MADE THE BRAHMAN'S WIFE SUSPICIOUS.

BAPPA IS NOT  
HONEST ANY  
MORE.

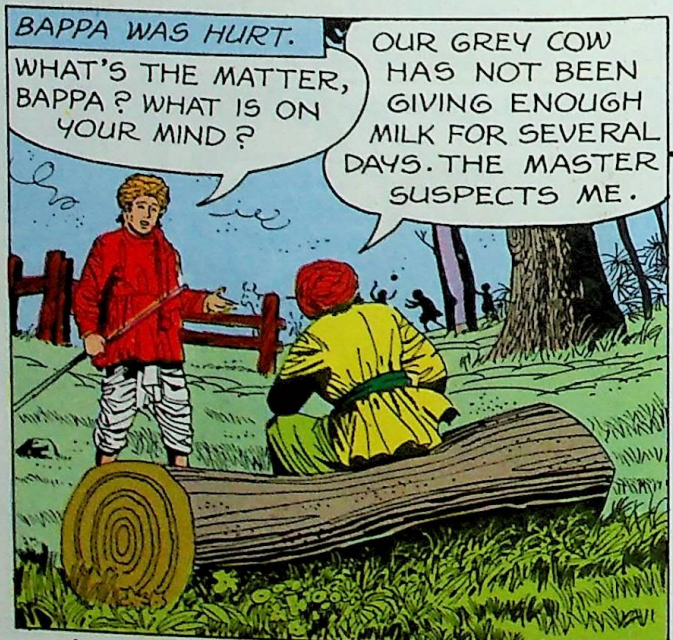
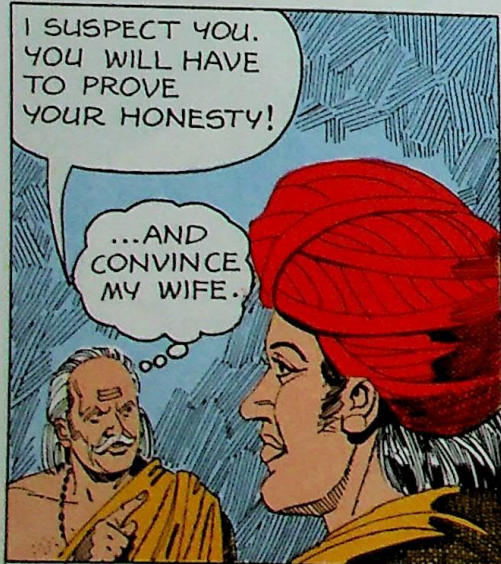
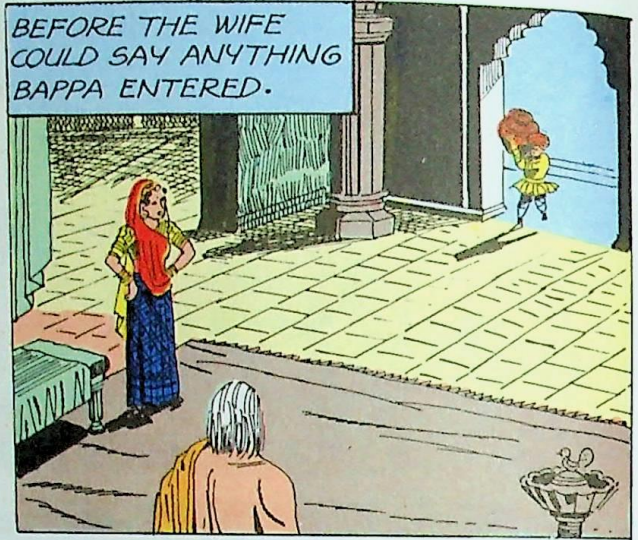
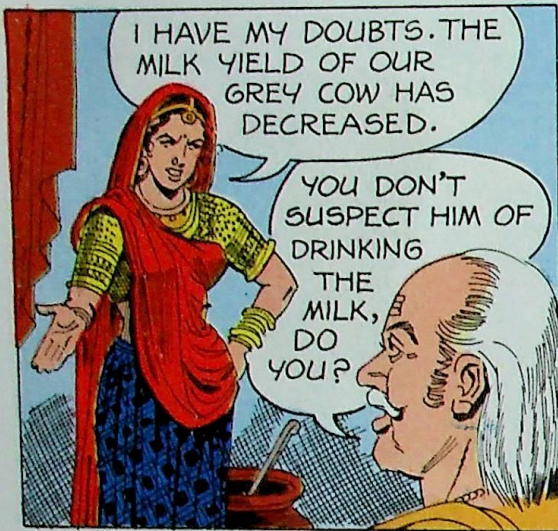
WHAT  
MAKES YOU  
SAY THAT?

DON'T YOU  
SEE HOW  
HEFTY HE HAS  
SUDDENLY  
BECOME?

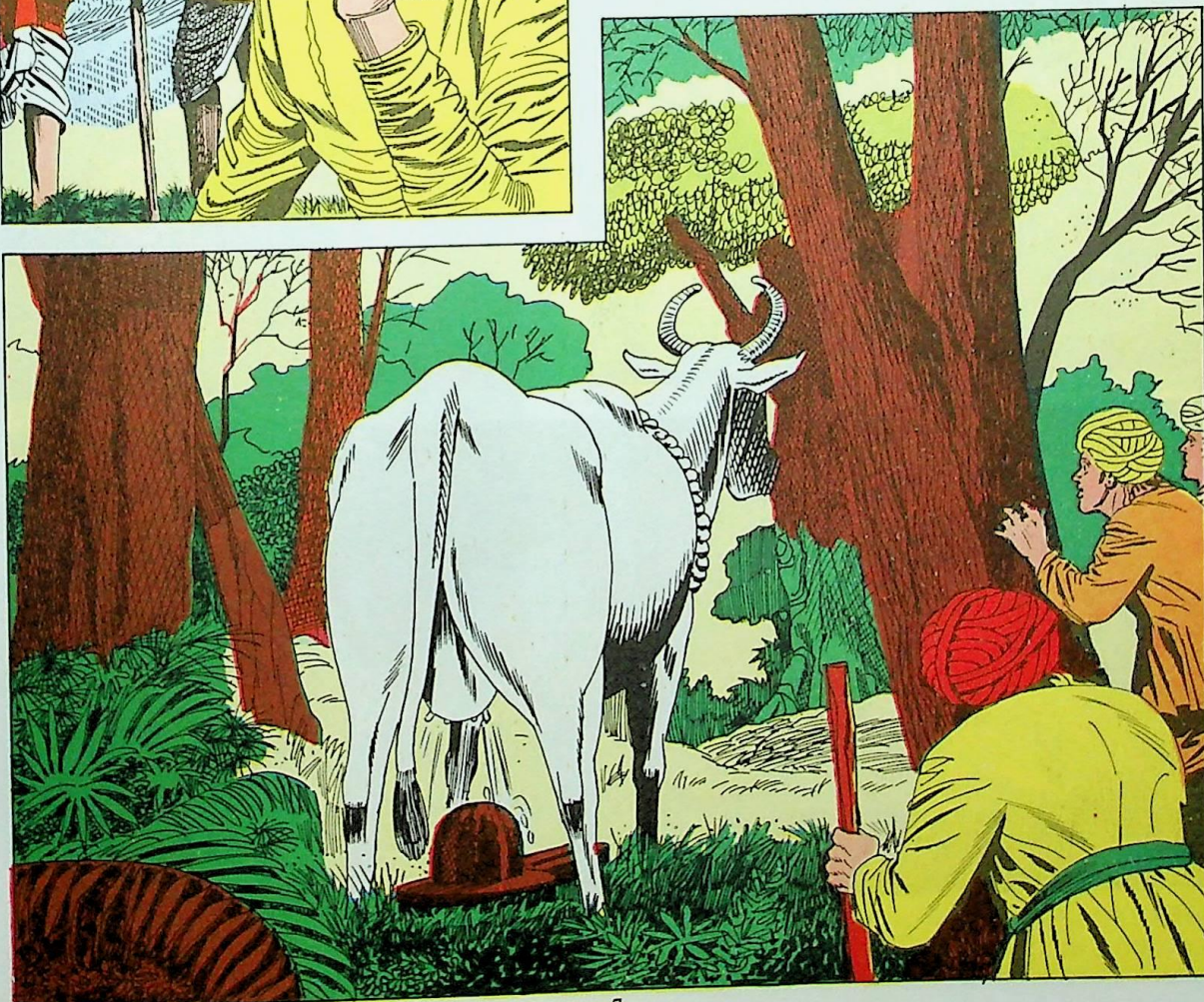
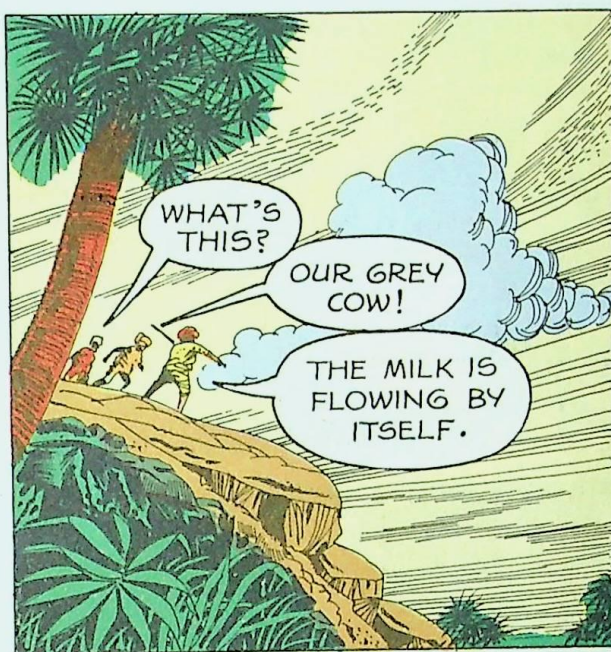
HE'S A  
GROWING  
BOY.



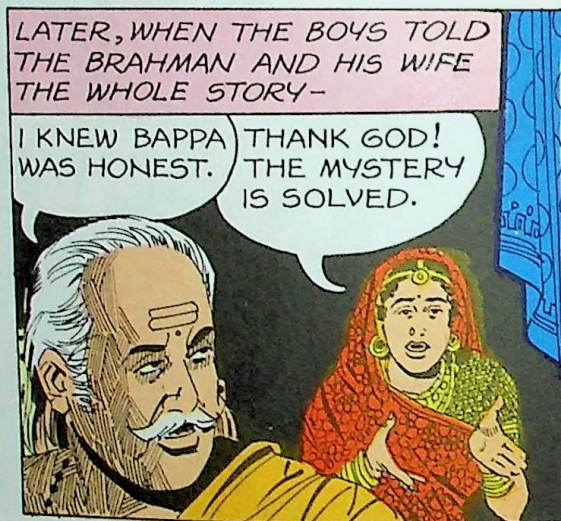
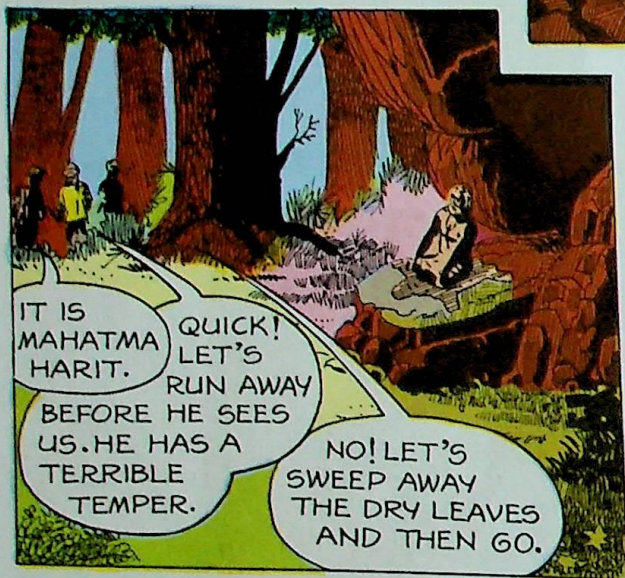
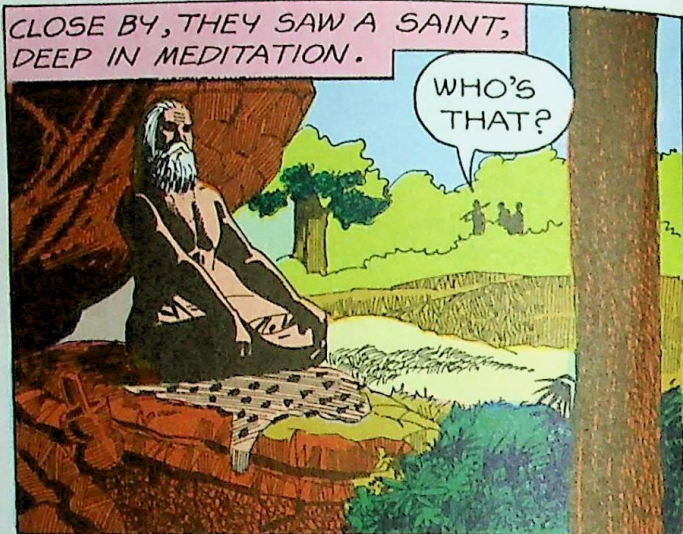












AFTER THAT EVERY DAY THE BOYS MADE IT A POINT TO CLEAN THE GROVE IN WHICH THE SAINT MEDITATED.



MAHATMA HARIT BEGAN  
TO WONDER WHO IT  
WAS WHO SERVED HIM  
WITH SUCH CARE.

I MUST  
KNOW WHO  
IT IS.

AT LAST, ONE DAY -

WHO ARE YOU,  
MY CHILDREN?  
COME TO ME.  
DON'T BE  
AFRAID.

I AM  
BAPPA.

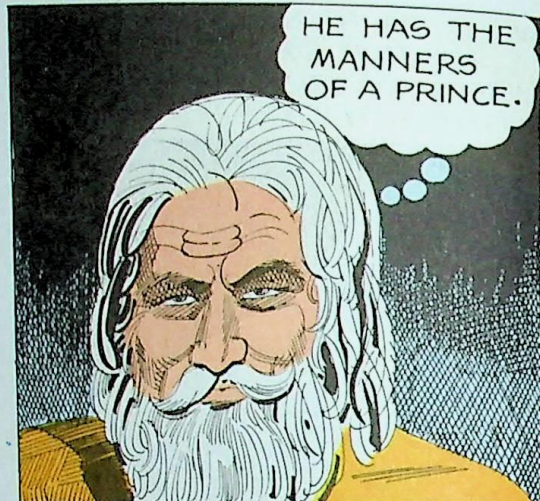
AND I AM  
BALIYA.

I AM  
DEV.

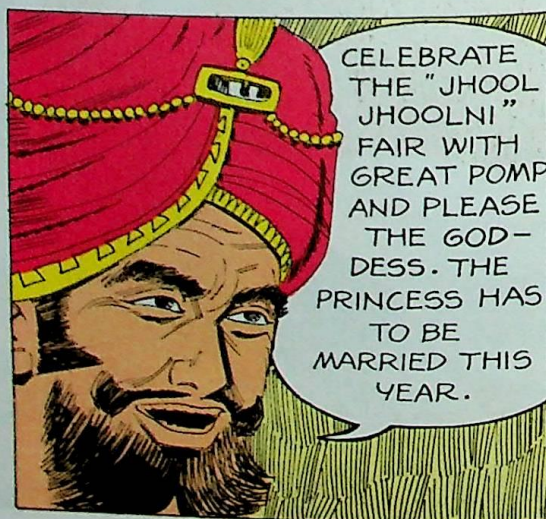
ARE YOU  
THE ONES  
WHO CLEAN  
UP THE  
HERMITAGE  
EVERY DAY?

YES,  
MAHATMAJI.





AT THAT TIME THE RULER OF NAGDA WAS A SOLANKI.





ALONG WITH THE OTHER VILLAGERS, BAPPA AND HIS FRIENDS TOO WENT TO THE FAIR.

HAVE YOU BROUGHT ROPES FOR THE SWINGS?

THE PLEASURES OF THE FAIR WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT A TURN ON THE SWINGS.



THE SOLANKI PRINCESS ALSO CAME TO THE FAIR FOR A VISIT TO THE TEMPLE.

THIS IS THE FAIR-GROUND, PRINCESS.

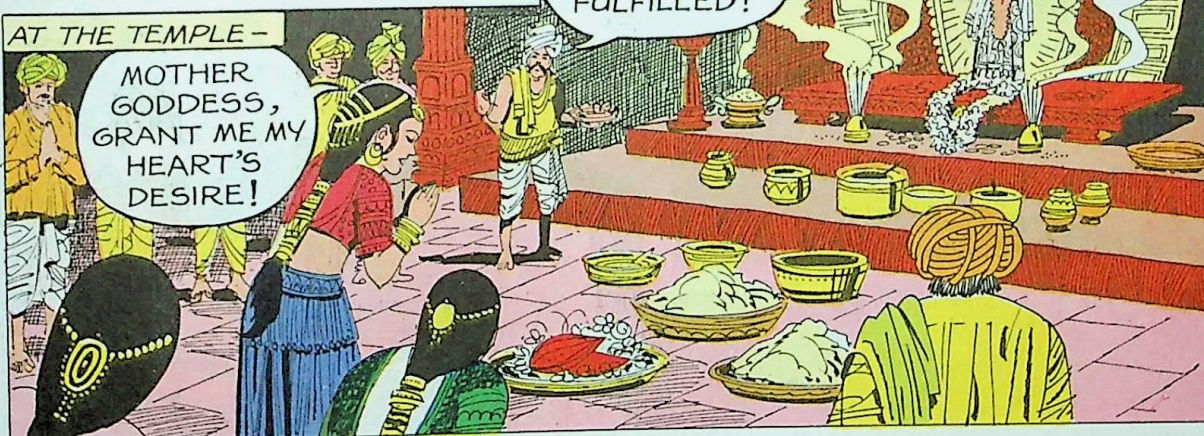
FROM HERE, WE WILL GO ON FOOT TO THE TEMPLE.



MAY ALL YOUR WISHES BE FULFILLED!

AT THE TEMPLE -

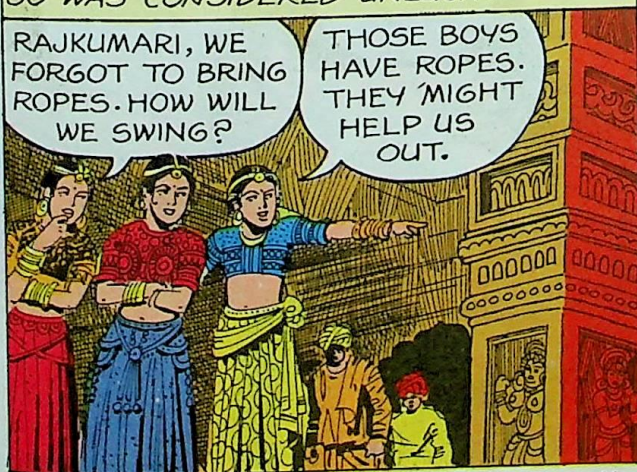
MOTHER GODDESS, GRANT ME MY HEART'S DESIRE!



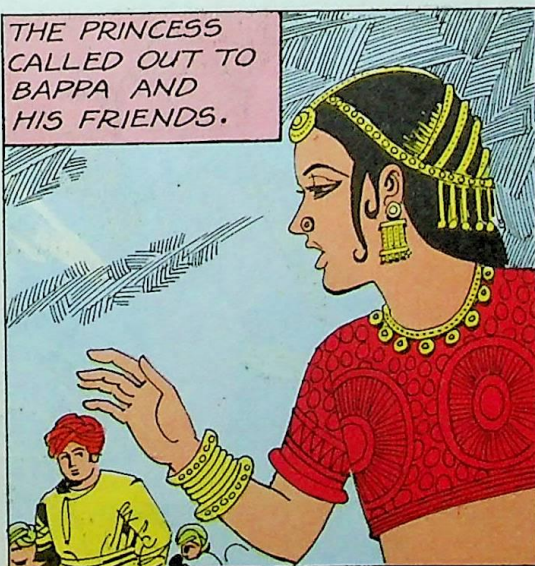
IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO TAKE A TURN ON THE SWINGS AT THE FAIR. NOT TO DO SO WAS CONSIDERED UNLUCKY.

RAJKUMARI, WE FORGOT TO BRING ROPES. HOW WILL WE SWING?

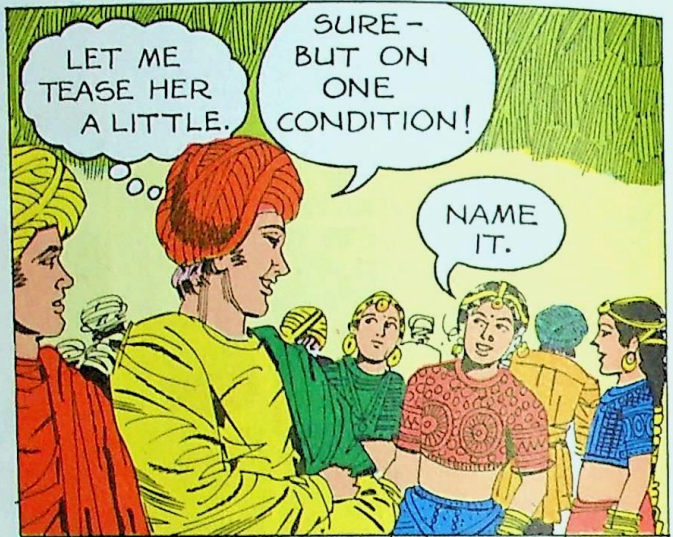
THOSE BOYS HAVE ROPES. THEY MIGHT HELP US OUT.



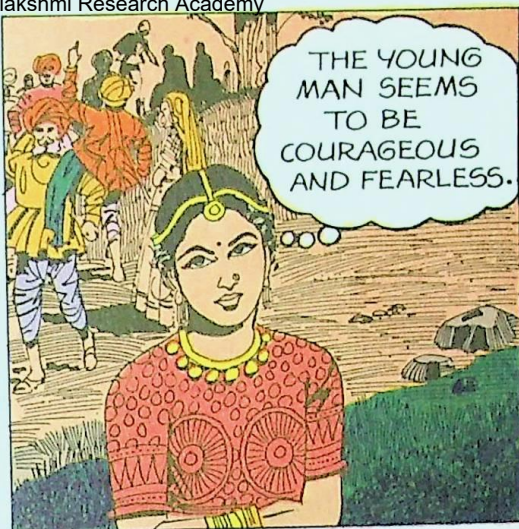
THE PRINCESS CALLED OUT TO BAPPA AND HIS FRIENDS.













AFTER THE CEREMONY-

YOU WILL  
SOON FORGET  
ME,  
RAJKUMARI.

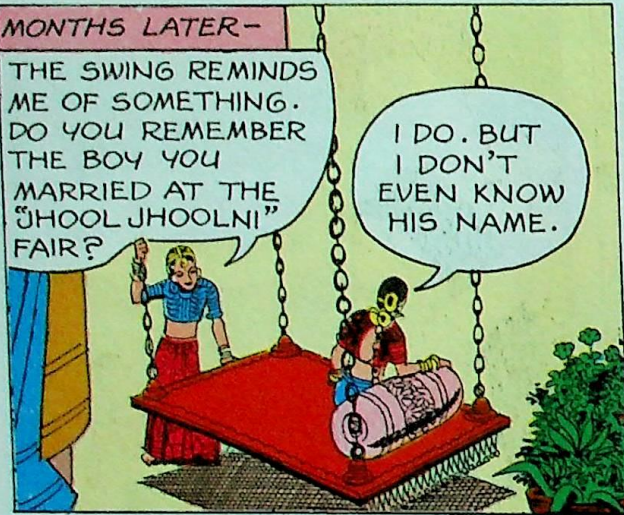
NEVER! I WILL  
REMEMBER  
THIS MOCK  
MARRIAGE ALL  
MY LIFE.



MONTHS LATER-

THE SWING REMINDS  
ME OF SOMETHING.  
DO YOU REMEMBER  
THE BOY YOU  
MARRIED AT THE  
"JHOOL JHOOLNI"  
FAIR?

I DO. BUT  
I DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
HIS NAME.



IT'S GOOD  
YOU DON'T -  
YOU ARE ABOUT  
TO BE MARRIED  
TO A PRINCE!

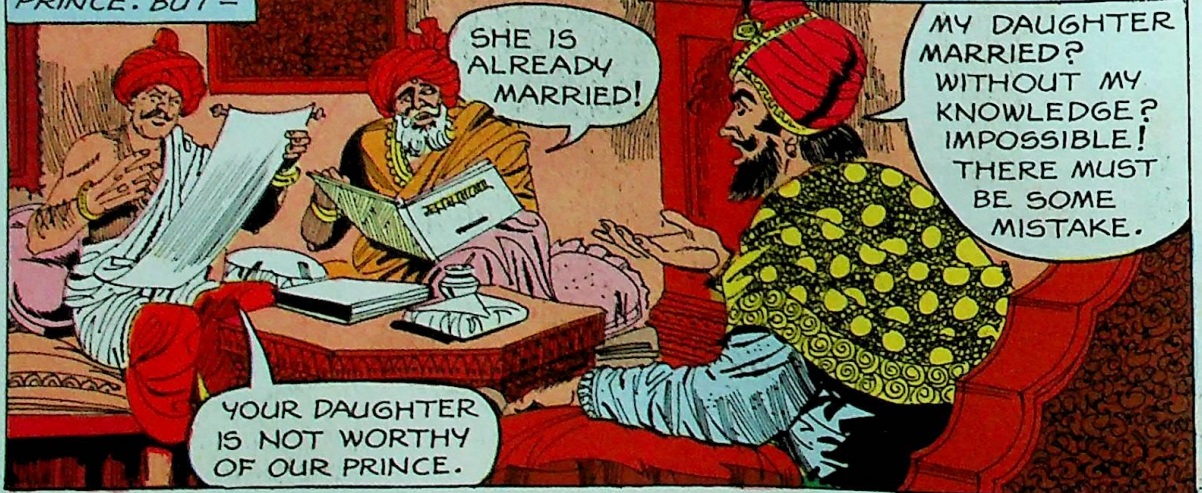


WHAT THE GIRL SAID WAS TRUE. SCHOLARLY ASTROLOGERS WERE  
BUSY COMPARING THE HOROSCOPES OF THE PRINCESS AND THE  
PRINCE. BUT -

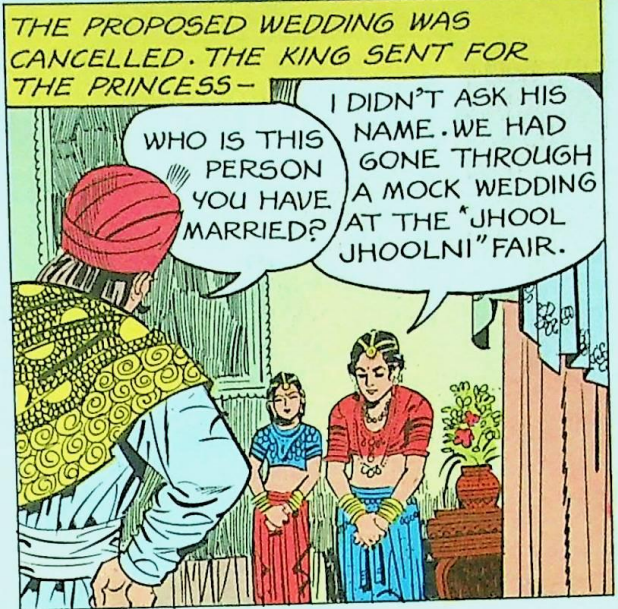
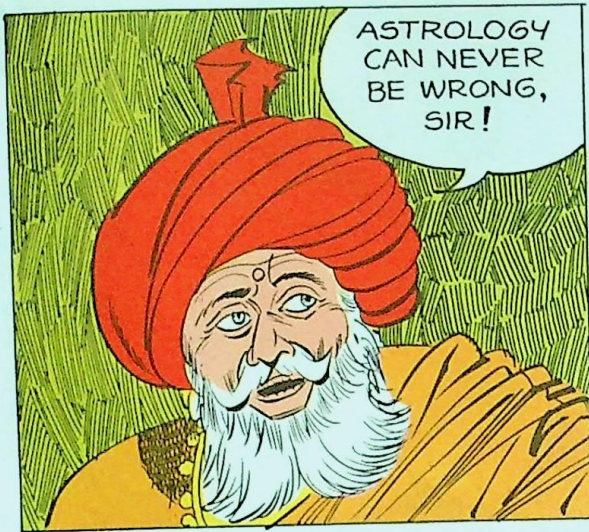
SHE IS  
ALREADY  
MARRIED!

MY DAUGHTER  
MARRIED?  
WITHOUT MY  
KNOWLEDGE?  
IMPOSSIBLE!  
THERE MUST  
BE SOME  
MISTAKE.

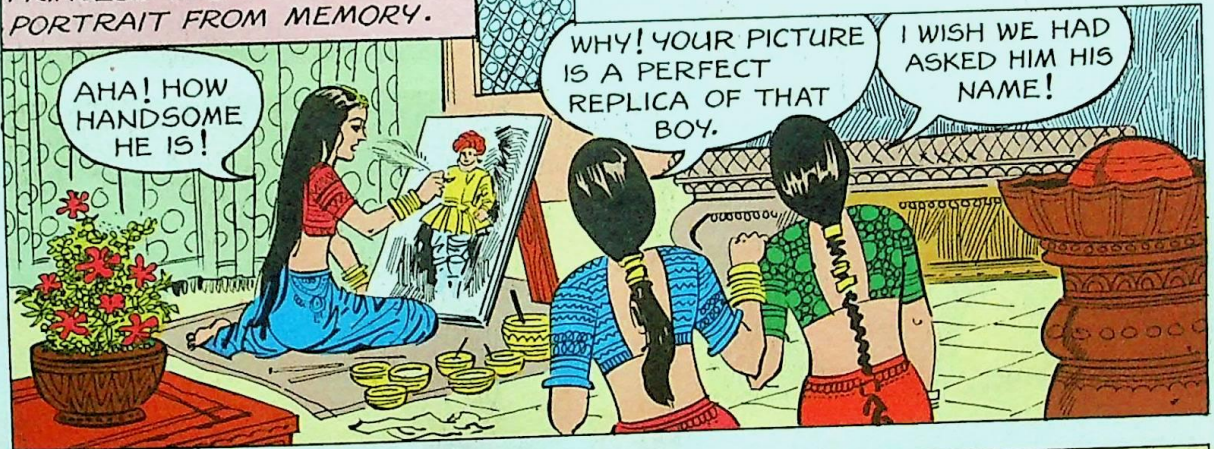
YOUR DAUGHTER  
IS NOT WORTHY  
OF OUR PRINCE.



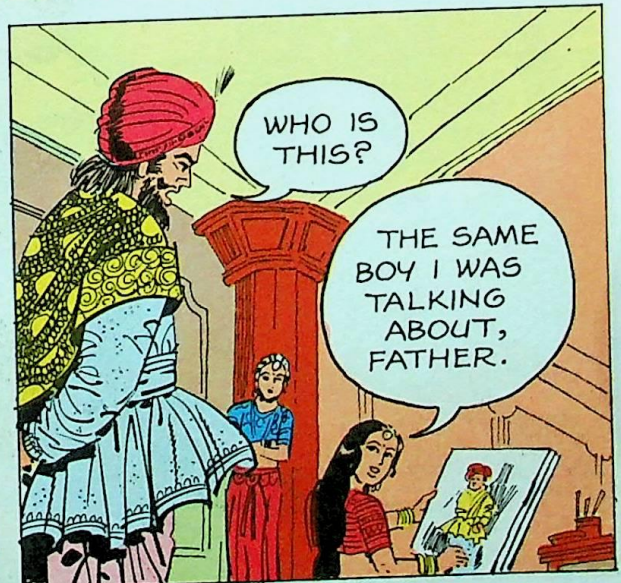
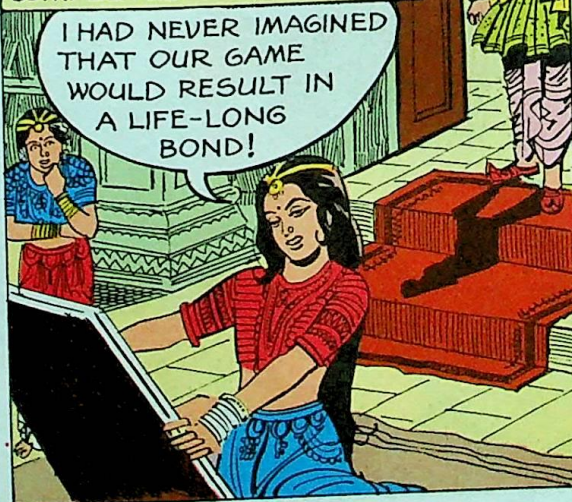




A FEW DAYS LATER THE PRINCESS BEGAN DRAWING A PORTRAIT FROM MEMORY.



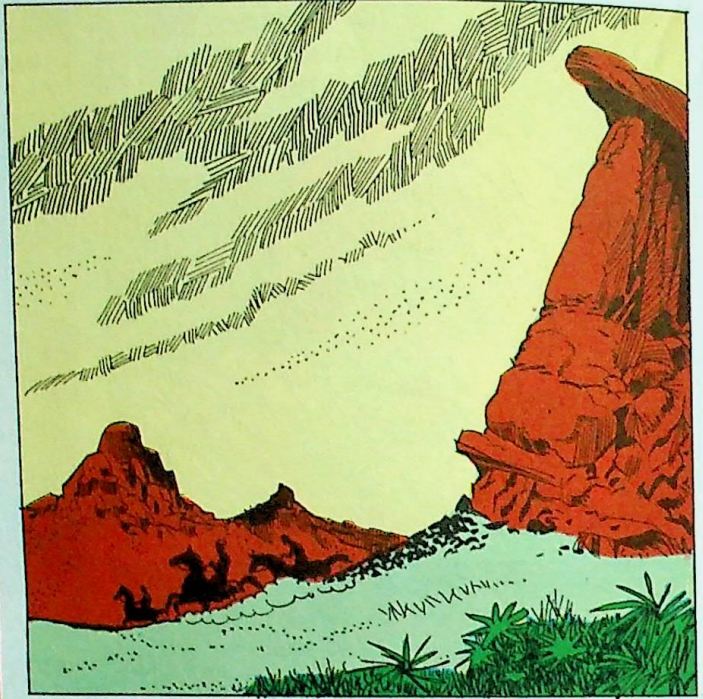
WHEN THE PICTURE WAS COMPLETED -





THE KING TURNED TO HIS GUARDS.

THE YOUNG MAN IN THIS PICTURE, WHEREVER HE BE, SHALL BE BROUGHT BEFORE ME.



NEWS OF THE KING'S ORDERS REACHED BAPPA.

THE KING'S MEN ARE LOOKING FOR THE BOY WHO MARRIED THE PRINCESS IN FUN.



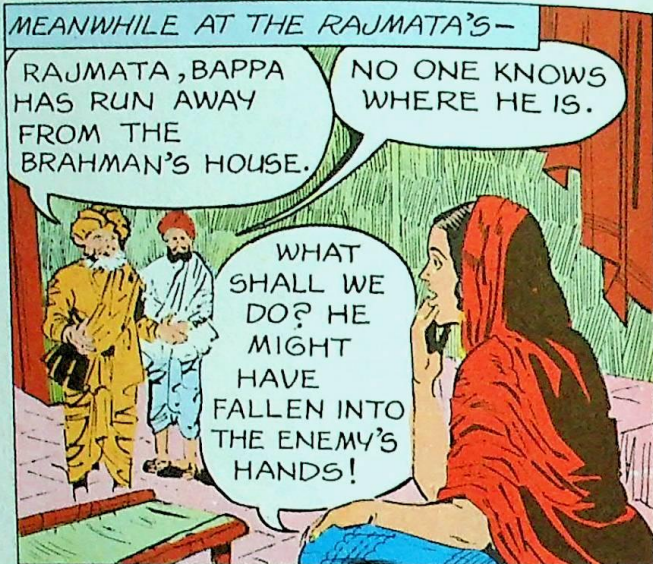
WE MUST NOT LET THEM KNOW THAT IT WAS YOU, BAPPA.

LET US TAKE THE OATH OF SECRECY.

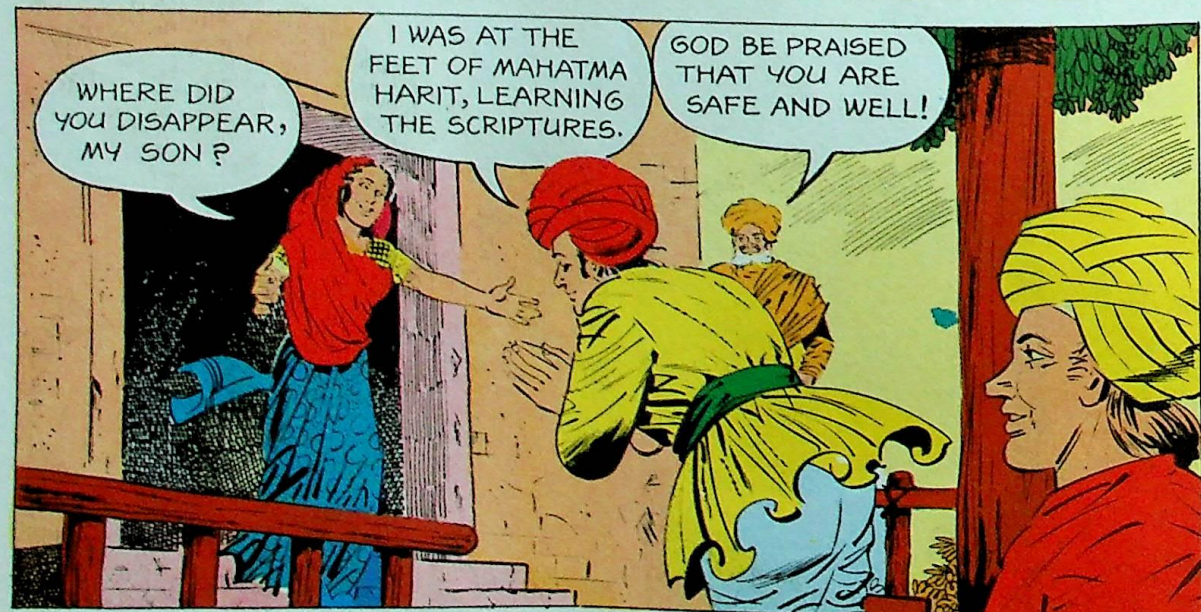




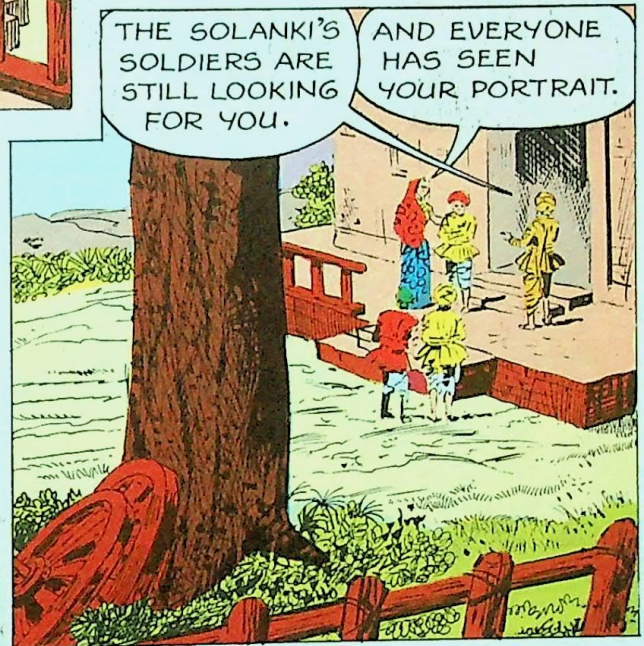
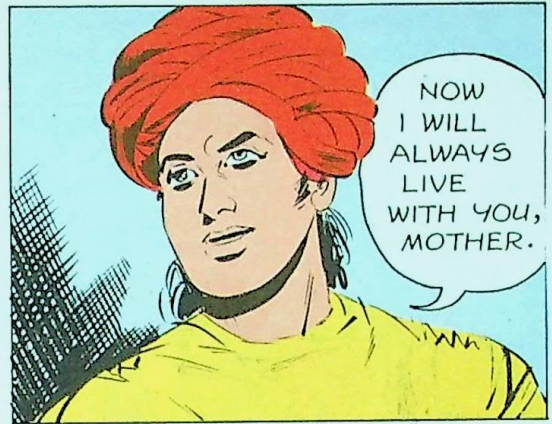
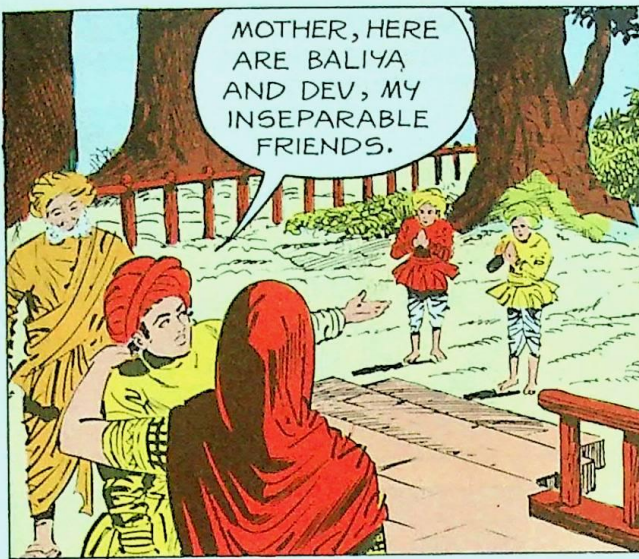




ONE DAY, MONTHS LATER, AT MAHATMA HARIT'S GROVE—









THE RAJMATA TOLD HIM ALL ABOUT THEIR FAMILY AND WHY THEY HAD GONE INTO HIDING.

SON, I AM THE SISTER OF RAJA MORI OF CHITTOR.

A PRINCESS! YOU HAVE UNDERGONE ALL THIS FOR MY SAKE, MOTHER!

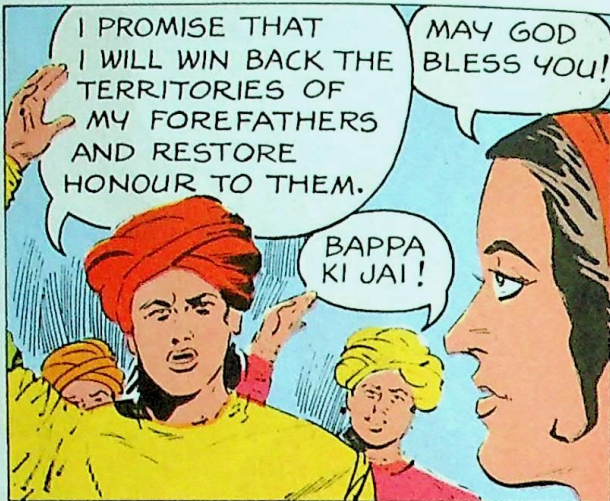
NOW THAT YOU ARE GROWN UP, DO YOUR DUTY, BAPPA.



I PROMISE THAT I WILL WIN BACK THE TERRITORIES OF MY FOREFATHERS AND RESTORE HONOUR TO THEM.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

BAPPA KI JAI!



LET US REST FOR A WHILE.

LET US GO TO THAT HUT.

IT'S A WARM DAY.



CLOSE TO THE HUT, BABA GORAKHNATH SAT IN MEDITATION.

HUSH! TAKE CARE NOT TO DISTURB HIM.

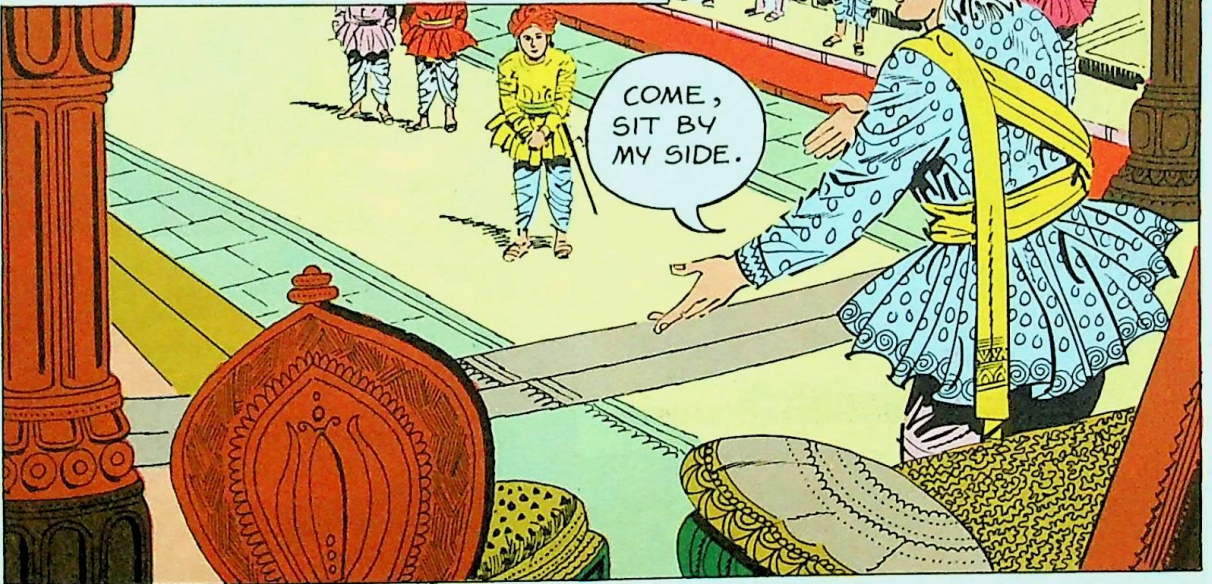
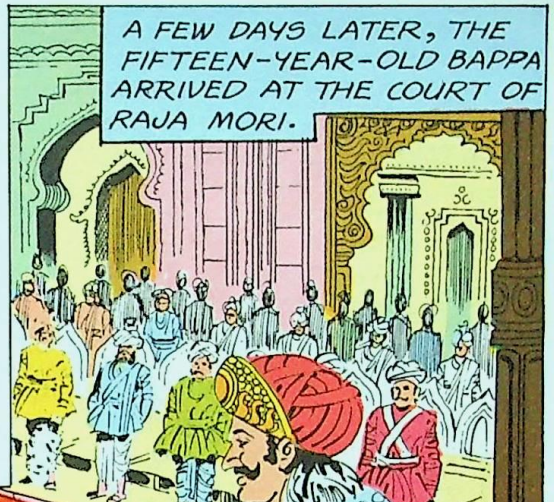




A LITTLE LATER, GORAKHNATH INTERRUPTING HIS MEDITATION, STARED AT BAPPA. THEN —



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD BAPPA ARRIVED AT THE COURT OF RAJA MORI.

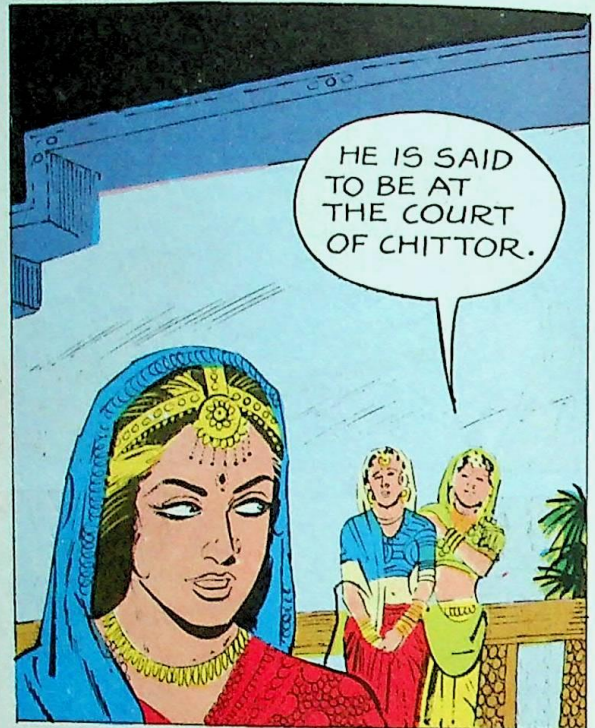


RAJA MORI OBSERVED BAPPA FOR A FEW DAYS AND TESTED HIS ABILITIES. THEN —





MEANWHILE AT THE PALACE -



BAPPA'S SHARP INTELLECT AND POLITE CONDUCT EARNED HIM THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF RAJA MORI.

I HAD ALWAYS WANTED A BRAVE YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU IN MY COURT.





RAJA MORI'S OLD MINISTERS  
WERE ENRAGED AT THIS  
APPOINTMENT.

THIS IS  
UNFAIR AND  
UNJUST!

OUR KING  
TRUSTS HIM  
BEYOND REASON!



HE IS HARDLY  
SIXTEEN YEARS  
OLD.

IN ALL RESPECTS,  
BAPPA IS OUR  
INFERIOR. HE HAS  
NO EXPERIENCE.

TO WORK UNDER  
A MERE BOY  
- WHAT A  
HUMILIATION!



MEANWHILE NEWS OF  
BAPPA'S VALOUR REACHED  
THE SOLANKI RULER TOO.  
HE FOUND OUT ALL  
ABOUT HIM.

HE IS THE MOST ELIGIBLE  
YOUTH FOR MY  
DAUGHTER. I MUST  
SEND A PROPOSAL  
TO HIM!



A  
WEDDING  
PROPOSAL!  
FROM THE  
SOLANKI!

OUR  
KING KNOWS  
ALL ABOUT  
YOU.









SOON AFTER HIS  
ARRIVAL AT CHITTOR -

MY MINISTERS  
RESENT YOUR  
NEW APPOINT-  
MENT.

I WILL  
GIVE IT UP  
IF YOU  
WISH.

NO. USE  
YOUR INNATE  
ABILITIES AND  
WIN THEM  
OVER.

YOUR CONFI-  
DENCE IN ME  
GIVES ME  
GREAT  
STRENGTH.

MEANWHILE, AN ARAB RULER ADVANCED ON  
CHITTOR WITH HIS MIGHTY ARMIES.

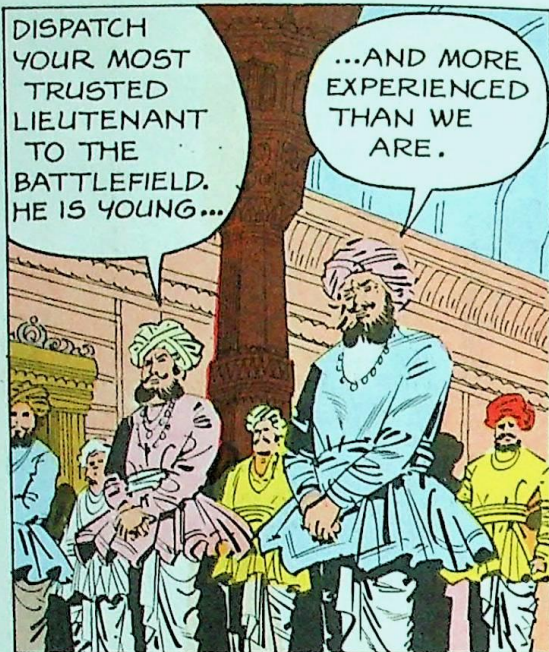
A FOREIGNER  
HAS INVAD-  
ED CHITTOR.

IT IS OUR  
SACRED DUTY  
TO PROTECT  
THE MOTHER-  
LAND.

WE WILL  
NOT  
FIGHT.

YOUR  
REASON?





THE TAUNT WAS TOO MUCH FOR BAPPA.

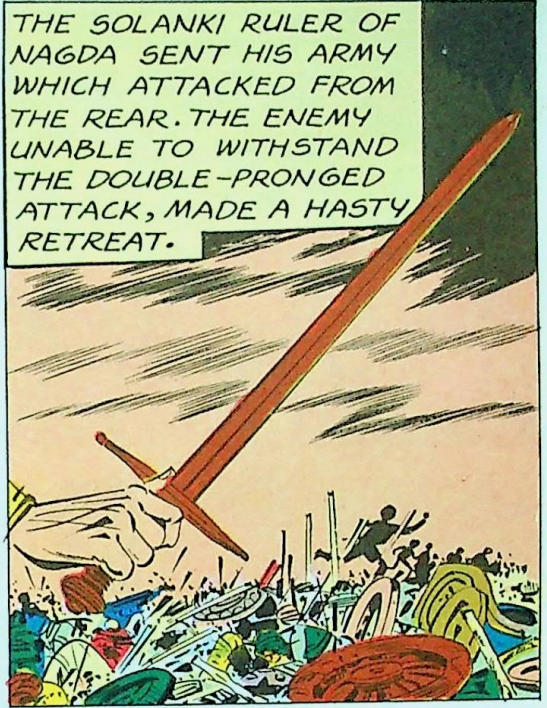




BAPPA'S FORCES  
FOUGHT FIERCELY.



THE SOLANKI RULER OF  
NAGDA SENT HIS ARMY  
WHICH ATTACKED FROM  
THE REAR. THE ENEMY  
UNABLE TO WITHSTAND  
THE DOUBLE-PRONGED  
ATTACK, MADE A HASTY  
RETREAT.



JUST THEN A SOLDIER RAN  
UP TO BAPPA.



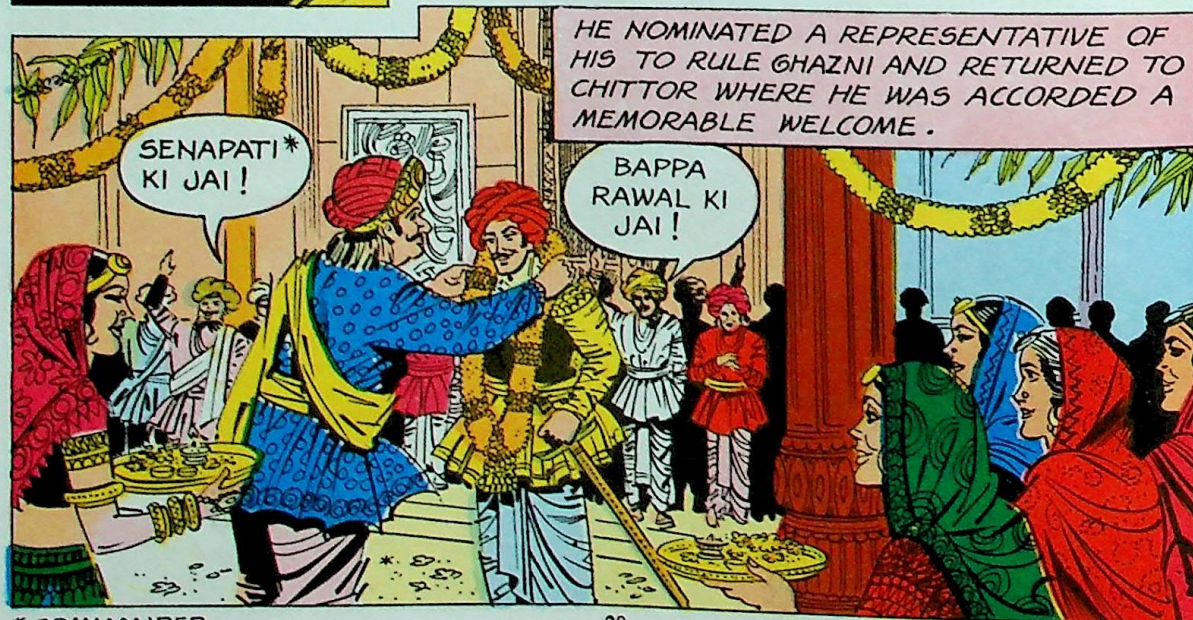
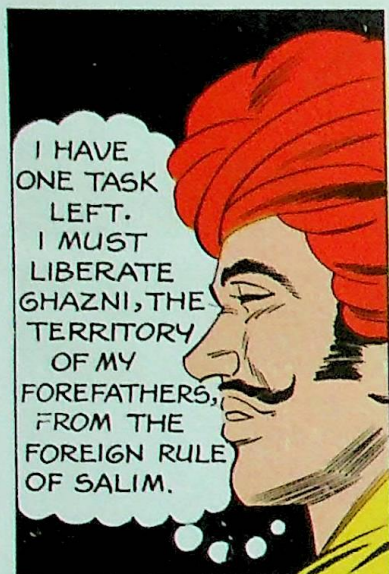
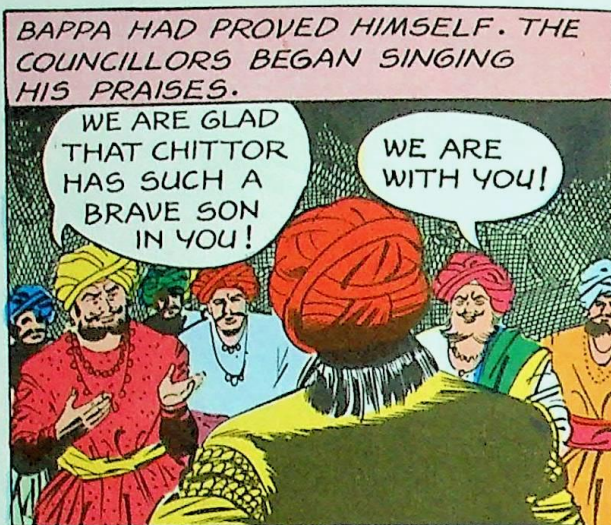
WHAT IS  
IT, MY  
MAN?

THE COUNCILLORS  
ARE ASHAMED.  
THEY ARE ON  
THEIR WAY TO  
THE BATTLE-  
FIELD.

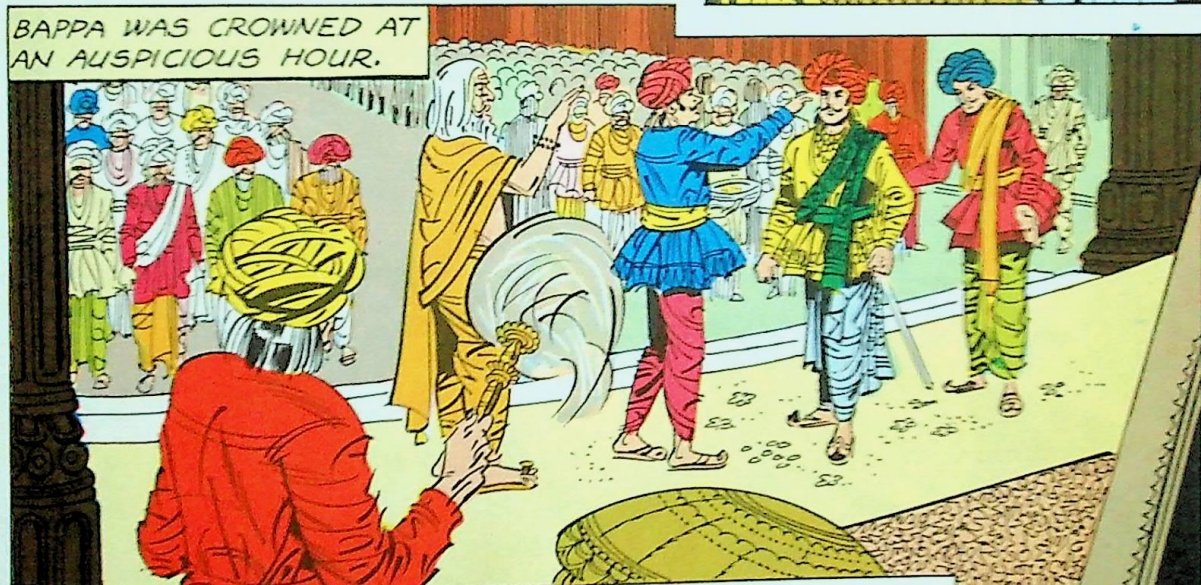
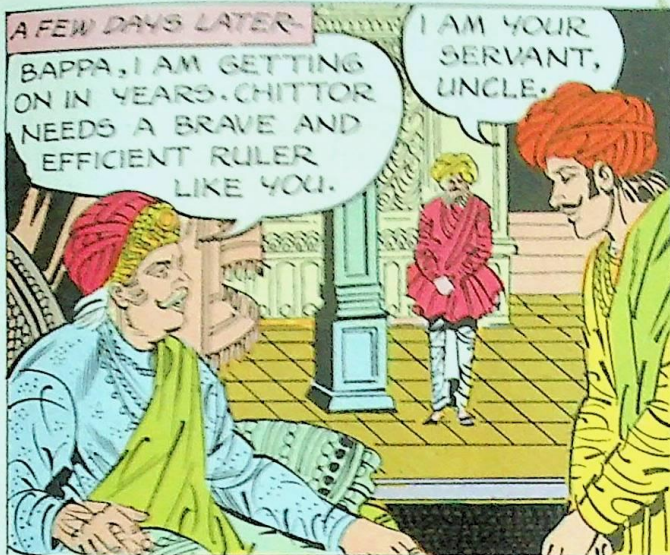
TELL THEM  
IT'S TOO LATE.  
THE ENEMY  
HAS BEEN  
ROUTED!



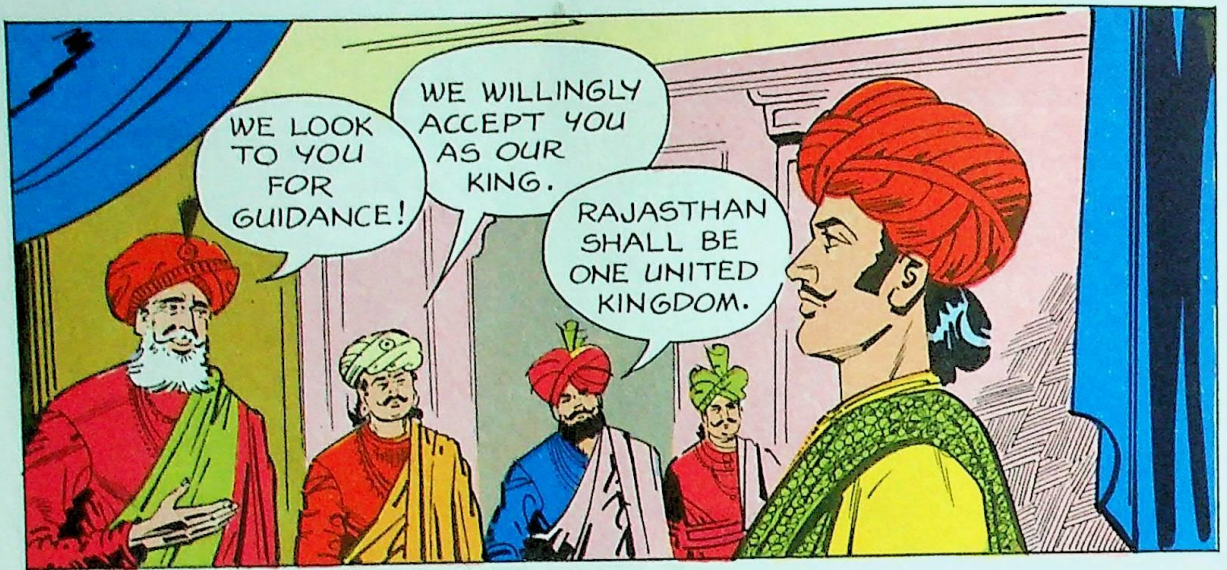












THOUGH A NUMBER OF RULERS ACCEPTED BAPPA'S SUZERAINTY, ISPHAGUL, THE RULER OF BANDAR RESISTED. BUT -



HIS PROMISE FULFILLED, BAPPA RETURNED TO HIS MOTHER.

MOTHER, THE STATES OF RAJASTHAN HAVE MERGED TO FORM ONE UNITED WHOLE.

AND BAPPA IS THEIR CHOSEN KING.

I AM PROUD TO BE YOUR MOTHER.





BAPPA RAWAL AND HIS ARMIES  
INVADED VARIOUS COUNTRIES  
INCLUDING ISPAHAN, KANDAHAR,  
IRAN, TURAN AND KHORASAN  
AND BROUGHT THEM UNDER  
INDIAN RULE. SEVERAL YEARS  
LATER HE RETURNED TO  
CHITTOR.



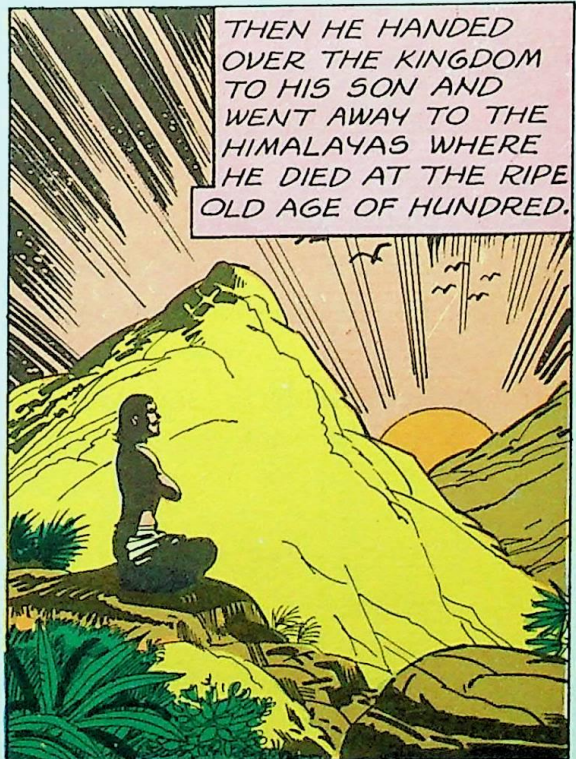
FOR MANY YEARS  
BAPPA RULED  
CHITTOR.

MINISTER, IS  
ALL WELL IN  
OUR STATE?

YOUR  
SUBJECTS  
ARE ALL  
HAPPY AND  
CONTENTED.



THEN HE HANDED  
OVER THE KINGDOM  
TO HIS SON AND  
WENT AWAY TO THE  
HIMALAYAS WHERE  
HE DIED AT THE RIPE  
OLD AGE OF HUNDRED.







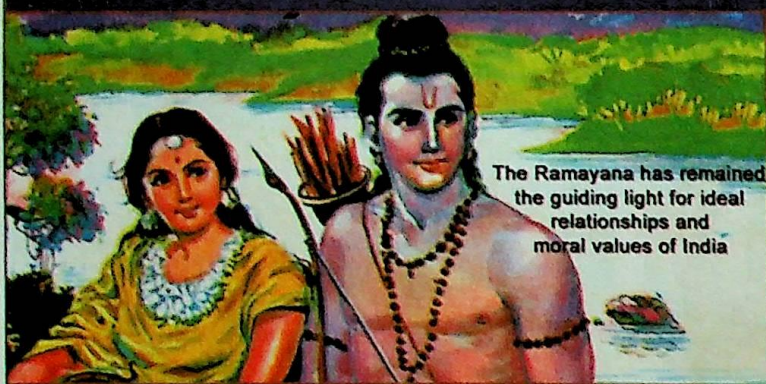
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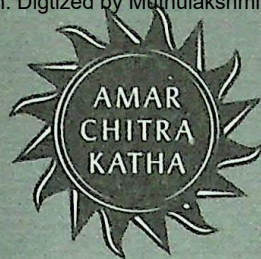
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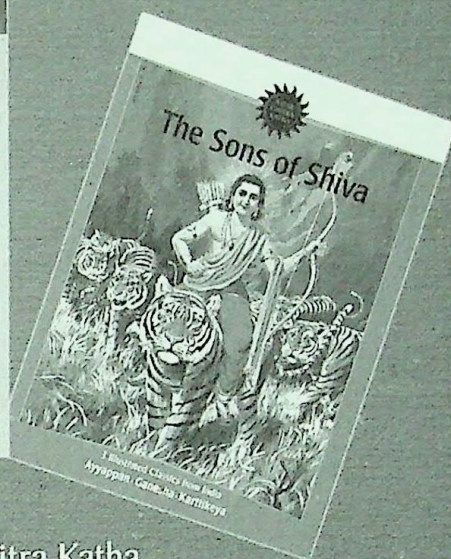
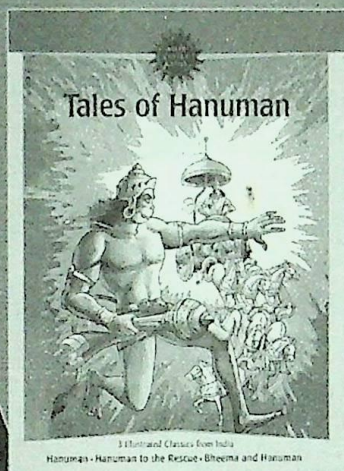
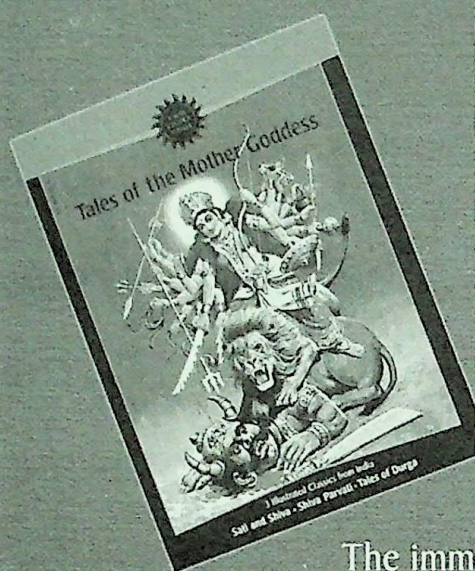
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